

September 19, 2018

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Urgent Need to Relocate Narrows Road South Express Bus Stop

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

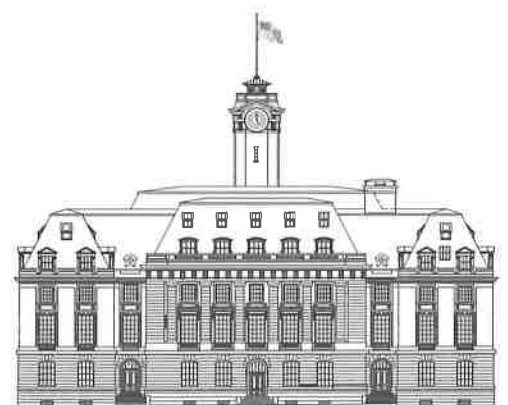
I hope this letter finds you well.

I am asking you to intercede on behalf of beleaguered Staten Island commuters with the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT). Specifically, we ask that you assist us in expediting the relocation of an express bus stop on Narrows Road South from its current location east of Steuben Street, to a new and much more efficient location west of Steuben Street, where no stop yet exists.

As you know, there has been a major revamping of the Staten Island-Manhattan (SIM) express bus routes, which are used by tens of thousands of Staten Islanders for their morning and evening commutes. We have been evaluating commuter feedback and making changes whenever possible, and I am happy to say there has been an unprecedented level of cooperation between the MTA, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 726 and Staten Island Borough Hall.

However, one of these highly impactful changes requires the relocation of a specific Express Bus stop, which can only be done by the DOT. Without getting into complicated details, because of the changes to the SIM routes the existing bus stop location on Narrows Road *east* of Steuben causes major delays for buses entering the Staten Island Expressway heading towards Manhattan. By moving the stop to a location *west* of Steuben, traffic will flow much more smoothly and efficiently.

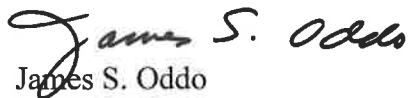
At the new, envisioned location west of Steuben, we have asked the DOT to a) install a sidewalk where there is currently only grass, b) move the shelter from its existing location to the new location, and c) install an appropriate bus pad in the street itself.



In addition to moving the stop, there is also a traffic light that causes major delays. Although the DOT is resistant to removing the light, during a multi-agency, on-site meeting the consensus was that the light was unnecessary, should be removed, or, at the very least, be re-timed.

I am writing directly to you because in this situation we do not have the luxury of waiting for the DOT to follow its usual timetable for a project such as this. Each and every workday that goes by Staten Island commuters are suffering, and will be until this change is made. For their sake, not mine, I ask you to insist that the DOT expedite this change as quickly as is humanly possible. Staten Island commuters deserve no less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James S. Oddo".

James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island